



BOB RILEY  
Governor

# Alabama Medicaid Agency

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CAROL A. HERRMANN, MPH  
Commissioner

June 16, 2005

## PROVIDER NOTICE 05-02

TO: Medicaid Hospice Providers  
SUBJECT: Medicaid Hospice Criteria

Effective June 16, 2005, all Hospice Providers are required to use criteria specific to the Medicaid program to determine medical necessity for recipients electing the hospice benefit when Medicaid is the primary payor. Providers should no longer use the Palmetto GBA Medicare Local Medical Review Policy (LMRP) to determine medical necessity for the hospice program when Medicaid is the primary payor for the hospice services. Chapter 51 of the Alabama Medicaid Agency Administrative Code, Rule No. 560-X-51-.04 contains the new criteria. The Medicaid hospice criteria are also available on the Alabama Medicaid Agency website at [www.medicaid.state.al.us](http://www.medicaid.state.al.us). A copy of the new Medicaid Hospice criteria is enclosed as well.

Providers should continue to use the Palmetto GBA LMRP for dually eligible recipients with Medicare Part A who reside in a nursing facility because Medicare is considered the primary payor for these individuals. The Medicaid hospice criteria should be used to establish eligibility for the following categories of hospice recipients:

- All recipients with full Medicaid benefits
- All recipients with Medicaid and Medicare Part B
- All recipients who are Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs) with full Medicaid coverage.

A Medicaid Hospice Open Door Forum is scheduled on Tuesday, June 28, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. The forum is a conference call similar in format to those conducted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Providers and their staff can participate by calling (334) 323-8904 and entering meeting code 1273929. The forum will afford providers an opportunity to ask questions about the criteria. Please notify all staff impacted by these changes of the forum. You may contact Ms. Wanda Davis at (334) 242-5018 or Ms. Nancy Headley at (334) 242-5684 for questions or further assistance.

Thank you for your continued commitment to provide quality palliative care for terminally ill Medicaid recipients.

Carol A. Herrmann, Commissioner

(Over)

Enclosure

Distribution List:

Alabama Hospice Association

Alabama Medicaid Agency Staff

Alabama State Medical Association

Electronic Data Systems

Alabama Hospital Association

Alabama Nursing Home Association

Medical Association of the State of Alabama

REMINDER: All Medicaid recipients are required to present their Medicaid eligibility card and proper identification to a provider of medical services for verification of eligibility when seeking treatment or service under the Medicaid program.

AVRS-1-800-727-7848

MEDICAID FRAUD HOT LINE – 1-866-452-4930